



Department of Environmental Management

Spotlight on Environmental Protection

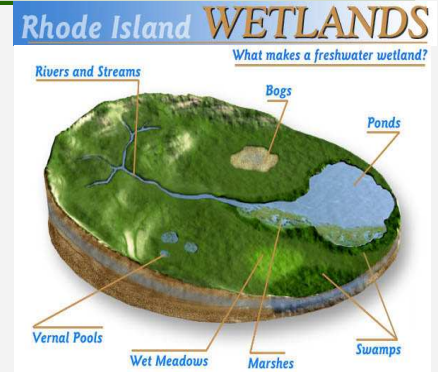
Highlights

- Protecting Rhode Island Freshwater Wetlands through Permitting
- DEM and RI.gov Collaborate: Municipalities and Citizens Applaud Wetland Plans Online
- Office of Water Resources and RI.gov Improve Services for Businesses and Home Owners
- T.F. Green Airport Commends Wetlands Staff for Invaluable Assistance
- RI DEM receives Innovators Award for 195-LINK at the 10th Annual Transportation Breakfast

Protecting Rhode Island Freshwater Wetlands through Permitting

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Resources regulates alterations to the majority of Rhode Island's freshwater wetlands. DEM administers an application process and permitting program, which helps to determine the presence of wetlands as well as verify delineated wetland edges. DEM also reviews proposed projects in and adjacent to freshwater wetlands to ensure that potential impacts are minimized.

Freshwater wetlands are an important component of our natural environment that provides several benefits such as flood protection, groundwater recharge, water quality protection, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic value.



DEM and RI.gov Collaborate: Municipalities and Citizens Applaud Wetlands Plans Online



Before the online service, citizens reviewed plans retrieved from archives.



Municipalities and Citizens may now search and view plans online with a simple search tool.

In collaboration with the State's Official website, www.RI.gov, the Office of Water Resources has launched a new service which has expanded the information about freshwater wetland applications that is available online. The search engine can be found at <https://www.ri.gov/DEM/wetlands/>.

The new service will provide the plans, permits, and letters that determine the status of a permit. With funding support from the Environmental Protection Agency, DEM was able to scan documents dating back to 2007 and organize them to support the electronic search function. Having the approved plans available online will benefit local building officials and planners, builders, consultants, watershed organizations and interested citizens.

To learn more about RI.gov, please visit, www.ri.gov/about

Or contact Nicole Scaramuzzi, Director of Marketing at (401) 831-8099x230



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Office of Water Resources and RI.gov Improve Services for Businesses and Home Owners

In an effort to facilitate the process of selling homes with an on-site wastewater treatment system, DEM has found a way to assist home sellers and buyers to complete the necessary research. The information is archived and the authorized total flow which translates into the number of allowable bedrooms in a home. Until recently, DEM was only able to provide this information after the archives were researched at its Providence headquarters. As many as 6 to 12 people were in the office daily researching total flow and archived books for microfilm permit numbers. Now, a citizen can visit www.dem.ri.gov to easily find the information critical to listing Rhode Island real estate. Total flow is also important to businesses that service septic systems as well as local government wastewater management programs.



"Great Improvement! Thanks for adding the Total Flow to the OWTS permit search. Saves me time and a trip to the office!"
-Darlene Gardner,
Superior Septic Service, Inc.

TF Green Airport Commends Wetlands Permitting Staff for Invaluable Assistance

Kelly J. Fredericks, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC), recently acknowledged Freshwater Wetlands in a letter to DEM's Director Janet Coit.

"Issuance of the [wetlands] permit represents a major milestone in our airport capital improvement program and will allow RIAC to move forward with necessary safety improvements for airline passengers in a manner that is protective of the environment." said RIAC President/CEO Kelly Fredericks. Not only will the airport expand but there will also be environmental improvements in water quality, wildlife quality, fish migration and reduced



"I would like to recognize the invaluable and timely assistance provided by your staff."
- Kelly J. Fredericks,
President, CEO, RIAC

RIDEM Receives Innovators Award for 195-Link Permit at the 10th Annual Transportation Breakfast

DEM, CRMC, and the 195 Redevelopment District received the Innovators Award from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT) in April 2014. The award honored the multi-agency collaboration that created a unique master permit governing stormwater management in the district designed to facilitate redevelopment within the 195-LINK. Individual projects in the district submitting storm water plans that are consistent with the master permit will receive the DEM Office of Water Resources authorization within 30 days.

In the Providence Journal, Kane stated "This has been a two-year labor. To take what would have been an 18-24-month [permitting] period and condense that [is an accomplishment]. We're here to recognize the professionals at CRMC, DEM and NBC. This will be the first joint master permit issued in the state by CRMC and DEM. ... We have a profoundly valuable offering to an international marketplace".

